White Station Middle School Choir Syllabus

2021-2022

Instructor: Makenna Amundson

Room D125

Email: amundson.makenna@gmail.com

Phone: 901-619-0315 (cell) 901-416-2184 (work)

**Introduction:**

The Choral Program at White Station Middle School offers a unique educational experience in which you may gain not only musical skills and a lifelong appreciation of music, but also discipline, self-confidence, teamwork, and a sense of accomplishment by working with others toward the common goal of excellence. As a member of the White Station Choir, you are expected to be an asset to your choir, your school, and your community.

The WSMS Chorale is open to students in grades 7 and 8 who have successfully auditioned after completing at least one year in choir. The Soprano/Alto Choir is open to soprano and alto singers in grades 7 and 8 and is not auditioned. The Tenor/Bass Choir is open to tenor and bass singers in grades 7 and 8 and is not auditioned. The 6th Grade Choir is open to any 6th grade student and is not auditioned. The ensembles will perform, analyze, and research music from the Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, and Romantic periods and the 20th and 21st centuries. **Rehearsals and performances are curricular and therefore required as a part of your grade.**

 The WSMS a cappella groupSpartonesis open to students in grades 7 and 8 who have successfully auditioned after completing at least one year in choir. This group will meet on Fridays after school from 2:15pm-4:00pm.

 In addition to the vocal experience, this class will equip you with basic music literacy skills- clefs, notes, staves, keys, rhythms, solfege, etc. With these skills, you can continue to enjoy music at a deeper level throughout your life.

**National Music Education Standards (Course Objectives)**

1. Perform: Sing, Play, Read - 1. Select, analyze, interpret 2. Develop and refine 3. Convey meaning through presentation.

2. Create: Improvise, compose - 4. Generate and conceptualize 5. Organize and develop 6. Refine and complete

3. Respond: Listen, analyze - 7. Perceive and analyze artistic work 8. Interpret intent and meaning 9. Apply criteria to evaluate

4. Connect: Connect, historical - 10. Synthesize and relate knowledge and personal experience 11. Relate artistic ideas and works with societal, cultural, and historical context to deepen understanding

**Instructional Methods**

1. Students will sing appropriate repertoire and exercises.

2. Students will perform in public.

3. Students will read and write musical notation.

4. Students will analyze and evaluate performances of themselves and others.

5. Students will observe and learn from appropriate vocal models.

6. Students will work as a team and learn group discipline

**Course Materials**

**Sheet Music (provided)-** All music must be returned in ***good condition*** at the end of each semester. The student is

***financially responsible*** for all lost and damaged music.

**Pencils-** Always have multiple sharpened pencils with you in class.

**Paper-** Students will be taking notes and completing written assignments in class and at home.

**3-Ring Black Binder**- Students will need a black binder to hold sheet music and notes/worksheets from class. The binder will stay in the classroom and should be **½ inch or 1 inch** in width to fit in the binder cabinet.

**Choir Classroom Wish List**

Hand Sanitizer

Paper Towels

Copy Paper

**Attendance Requirements**

Every student is *required* to be at all performances. *You have all of the required dates for this class well in advance. While I am very sympathetic and understanding when it comes to conflicts, I ask that you respect your fellow choir members and your director by informing the director of any conflicts in advance.* If you have any questions about a particular event, please ask me during the first 9 weeks of school! Anything turned in less than a month ahead of time is considered an Unexcused Absence and *will affect your grade* (except in the case of an emergency situation).

In short, my policy is this: I respect you by giving you the entire schedule for the semester in the first week. You respect me and your choir by talking with sponsors and coaches ASAP and listing any and all conflicts. JUST BECAUSE YOU HAVE A CONFLICT DOES NOT MEAN I WILL EXCUSE YOU FROM ATTENDANCE.

**Grading Policy (subject to change by SCS district)**

The following items are considered in the grading process:

Daily Class Participation/Classwork

-includes being prepared for class, being on time, staying on task, following directions, and giving one hundred percent. This grade is determined by random checks throughout the year and by any worksheets/exercises we do in class. There will be at least one class work assignment given each week.

 Concert and Rehearsal Participation

**-There are no makeup grades for missed concerts**. Your contribution to the choir cannot be realized

without your attendance. Only emergencies will be excused from concerts. These must be approved by Ms. Amundson and signed by a parent. If you are to have a conflict or potential conflict, you must bring it to Ms. Amundson IN WRITING **more than a month ahead of time**. Otherwise, you will be expected to attend that rehearsal or concert or receive a zero grade.

Concert Evaluations, Theory Tests

- includes classroom tests on music theory, sight reading, and singing tests given in preparation for concerts, All-West Auditions, etc. After each concert, we will listen to the concert. Students will evaluate the choir’s performance based on key factors.

**Classroom Expectations**

General Expectations

1. Be punctual and prepared for every rehearsal and performance.

2. Respect yourself, others, your director, and the provided supplies (sheet music, folders, etc).

3. Only use equipment like the computer, piano, recording equipment, etc. with the director’s permission.

4. We do not waste time. This applies to the director and to you. Every moment of rehearsal is precious.

Rehearsal Expectations

1. As soon as you walk in the door, grab your folder and begin your bell work. This bell work will include short theory exercises, sight singing examples, and quizzes.

2. WSMS tardy policy will be enforced. If you are not in your seat by the time the bell rings, you are tardy. You must have a note to be excused.

3. Always have your music, pencil, and paper at your seat when the bell rings.

4. Chewing of gum is not allowed. It inhibits proper vocal production and can be dangerous.

5. Practice good alignment.

6. Watch and listen to the director at all times.

7. Only talk when prompted by the director.

8. Cell phones are not permitted in the rehearsal. This is also school policy.

9. Be gracious about the director’s corrections towards you. Remember that this is an educational experience and constructive criticism is necessary for growth.

**Concert Attire**

WSMS choirs will wear “concert black” to concerts this year. This allows for students and parents/guardians to provide their own concert attire. This attire must be professional. Examples include:

* Black blouse and black slacks (no jeans)
* Black collared shirt and black dress pants (no jeans)
* Black skirt or dress below the knees
* Black shoes

If the student is unable to provide their own attire, then a concert outfit could be provided, but the director needs to know ***at least two weeks before*** the concert/performance.

**\*\*Solo and Voice Part Policy\*\***

Occasionally, solos occur in the music we perform. I will conduct solo auditions as I see fit. Because I am preparing each child for the high school, college, and professional world, I want only the *student* to ask questions about their performance in regards to a solo audition. This allows them to learn more from the experience. Directors will not speak with parents about audition results until after the student has inquired *first*.

 **Please sign the last page of the syllabus and turn it in to Ms. Amundson by Monday, August 16, 2021 for a 100 point Classwork Grade.**

I understand and agree to adhere to the policies listed in the 2021-2022 Choir Syllabus

Student Name (print) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Student t-shirt size (included after choir fee payment) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Youth or Adult (circle one)

Parent/Guardian Signature \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Signature\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian phone number(s): \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Email address: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_